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The Bureau of Land Management Service Center Newsletter May 1995

# CENTER SCENE

## ON THE HEP SIDE

### Cinco de Mayo Program Highlights Achievements

Denver Washington and Service Center employees came together on Wednesday, May 3, 1995, to celebrate both Cinco de Mayo and Public Service Recognition Week.

Sandy Romero

Cinco de Mayo denotes a landmark historical event in Denver's history. On May 5, 1970, as part of the Chicano Movement, a revolutionary leader named Rodolfo "Corky" Gonzales, who founded the Denver-based Crusade for Justice, led Denver Chicanos (Mexican-American people) on a march to the Colorado State Capitol. The purpose was to make the city aware of the injustice suffered by the Chicano population as a whole.

This event set in motion a series of historical forces that led to a Cinco de Mayo yearly celebration nationwide. American Chicanos have played a significant role in government, education, science, arts, music, culture, industry, commerce, journalism, and other facets in the development of our great nation. Cinco de Mayo is a celebration of these achievements.

Two employees who have volunteered their time and talents generously in the local community were recognized as part of Public Service Recognition Week.

Sandy Romero (SC-120), an EEO Specialist, has been an active member of the Image Denver Chapter for National Image, Inc., for over 9 years. She has served in various positions for the Executive Board of the Denver Chapter and is currently serving as the First Vice President. Sandy has also been active with her daughter Sabrina's Girl Scout Troop for over 4 years.

For the past 18 years, Sandy has been involved with the disabled community. When her daughter Stephanie was diagnosed with cerebral palsy at 10 months old, Sandy became active with the Cerebral Palsy Center and continued her involvement for 5 years. She is currently an active parent volunteer with Fletcher Miller Special School and the Winter Park Disabled Ski Program, both of which her daughter is involved with.

Joe Wright (DW-103), Technical Lead for the ALMRS IOC Project, has been a volunteer with Porter Hospice for 2 years. Hospice provides care for the terminally ill. Joe serves at the residence, where he provides support and personal care for patients, gives support to family members, and does household chores.

A member of the Lafayette Library Board for 2 years, Joe is currently vice-president and was formerly the secretary. He helped identify community interest in a new library building, participated in a successful bond campaign, and currently serves on the Architectural Review Committee for the $5 million library building.

## Personnel News

**New Employees:**

Barbara Walters, Systems Accountant, SC-613
David Farnum, Safety & Occ. Health Spec, SC-100
Martha Lemay, Computer Spec, SC-613
Me'Lisa Fuell, Secretary (OA), SC-650
George Epps, Safety & Occ. Health Spec, SC-100
Norm Duquette, Health Manager, SC-100
Brenda Peralta, Secretary (OA), SC-100
Luron Ann Porter, Secretary (OA), SC-214

**Separations:**

Diane Reitz, Voucher Examiner Supv., SC-616
Daniel Kawamoto, Structural Engineer, SC-216
Elizabeth Bannick, Secretary (OA), DW-105
Connie Miller, Purchasing Agent, SC-657
George Hutchison, Voucher Examiner, SC-616
Rhio Jackson, Surface Prot. Spec., SC-212
M'Liss Neff, Management Analyst, DW-102
Linda Oliver, Computer Specialist, DW-102

## Employee Awards

*SC and DW employees recently approved for awards.*

### Performance Awards

Todd Adler ..... SC-610
Kurt Ballantyne ..... DW-100
Bruce Beierle ..... SC-650
Henry Blum ..... SC-610
Judy Bodenberger ..... SC-652
Leon Campbell ..... SC-650
Demetra Chavez ..... SC-650
James Collins ..... DW-110
Ronald Corsi ..... SC-652
Patricia Deitemeyer ..... DW-101
Edward Fritchie ..... SC-650
Michael Garratt ..... DW-101
Marilyn Hutchison ..... SC-650
Colleen Ireland ..... SC-510
Alan Iwahashi ..... DW-103
Therese Jeffries ..... SC-510
Michael Kelly ..... SC-610
David Kett ..... SC-215
Barbara Lovelace ..... SC-216
Sharon McCullough ..... DW-103
Elizabeth McDill ..... SC-652
Gary Meade ..... SC-652
Patricia Moler ..... SC-510
Leon Mozell ..... SC-510
Laura Nelson ..... SC-510
Robert Palmer ..... SC-657
Judith Reck ..... SC-650
John Reitsma ..... DW-110
Melanie Rhinehart ..... DW-110
James Ross ..... SC-510
Bonnie Santos ..... SC-510
Rick Santos ..... SC-510
Vickie-Lou Smejkal ..... SC-657
Robert Stahl ..... SC-657
Donald Watson ..... SC-650
David Whitt ..... SC-652
Tyrone Wilson ..... SC-510
Donna Zinn ..... SC-510

### Quality Step Increase

Geraldine Phillips ..... SC-210

### Special Act

Karen Martinez ..... SC-610

# Reinventing Safety: A New Emphasis

*National Safety Team members are l-r: George Epps, Brenda Peralta, Norman Duquette, and David Farnum.*

It seems like just about everything in government is being reinvented these days, or is waiting its turn. Safety is no exception. The National Safety Team, which recently relocated from the Washington Office to the Service Center, has been up to their earlobes in reinvention work since arriving here.

In the past, the safety program has been a top-down operation in which BLM managers were seen as the primary customers. The emphasis was on issuing policies and direction and on conducting formal inspections and evaluations to note deficiencies.

This is now changing. The focus will be on providing guidance and participating as partners with the field in developing and implementing solutions to safety problems.

Program evaluations will be complemented by assistance visits whose primary purpose will be educating employees actually doing the on-the-ground work. The intent is to be in a helping mode, not a "gotcha" mode, emphasizing working with the field office to improve the safety program and reduce injuries and property loss.

The basic thrust of the safety program will be to educate employees to take responsibility for their own safety, as well as being concerned for the safety of fellow work team members. Employees will also be asked to innovatively apply the safety standards they must follow. This is very much in keeping with the Bureauwide emphasis on self-directed work teams and empowered employees.

The ultimate goal of the safety program is a totally safe, error-free environment. And there is a readily available performance measure for success. If the Bureau experiences decreased workers' compensation costs, less employee downtime, fewer tort claims, and a reduction in the replacement of damaged property, then the program is accomplishing its mission.

Four members of the National Safety Team transferred to the Service Center from Washington in early April. George Epps is the Team Leader. A native and long-time resident of the East Coast, George is finding Denver to be a new and different experience. "Everyone here at the Service Center has been very warm, congenial, and helpful," says George, who is still getting settled in to his new job and home.

Norman Duquette is the Bureau Safety and Health Program Manager. Norman and his wife Dolly, who is a professional artist, were very happy to return to the West after their 5-year stint in Washington and a previous tour in Santa Fe, which they really enjoyed. Norman's oldest son Vincent works in BLM's Taos Resource Area, while son Marty resides in a group home in Santa Fe. Daughter Suzanne is a student at Virginia Tech. Norman, who is an avid collector, gardener, and world traveler, observes that he has been "pleasantly surprised by the cultural diversity of the Denver area," particularly by the international markets.

*Reinvention experts Ros Warren and Kathy Shell.*

David Farnum serves as a Safety and Health Specialist on the team. David likes being in Colorado, finding the people here to be friendly and helpful. A bicycling enthusiast, he looks forward to enjoying the outdoors as the weather warms up.

Brenda Peralta is the Staff Assistant for the Safety Team. She, her husband Bacilio, and her daughter Ilka are busy getting settled into their new apartment and checking things out.

The team is seeking two additional positions—a safety and health training specialist and loss control data management specialist—to round out the staff.

The Service Center management analyst who has been spearheading the overall safety reinvention effort is Ros Warren. Ros has already spent many hours assembling information and preparing proposals. Her contribution has been invaluable to the reinvention process.

Rounding out the picture is Service Center industrial hygienist Kathy Shell, who represents the health side of the safety and health equation. Kathy has also spent considerable time and effort working with the National Safety Team to put together an efficient and effective program.

**U.S. Savings Bonds 1995 Campaign**

**Kicks Off May 1!**